BEFORE

THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF

SOUTH CAROLINA

DOCKET NO. 93-787-G - ORDER NO. 96-872

DECEMBER 18, 1996

IN RE: Application of Piedmont Natural Gas   )   ORDER
       Company for Approval of an Integrated   )   GRANTING
       Resource Plan.   )   EXTENSION OF
)   TIME

This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of

South Carolina (the Commission) on the December 4, 1996 request of

Piedmont Natural Gas Company (Piedmont) for an extension of time

in which to file its Integrated Resource Plan (IRP).

On February 8, 1993, the Commission issued Order No. 93-145

in Docket No. 91-677-G, which required Piedmont to file an

Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) with the Commission every three

years. The original Plan was filed on December 28, 1993. On

January 27, 1995, the Commission issued Order No. 95-154, finding

that Piedmont's original IRP filing was consistent with the

Commission's procedure.

In order to comply with the IRP filing and reporting

procedures as set forth in Appendix A of Order No. 93-145,

Piedmont is required to file an IRP with the Commission every

three years. Also, pursuant to Appendix A, Piedmont is to file

its IRP on January 1 of the appropriate year. Therefore,

Piedmont's IRP ordinarily would have been due January 1, 1997.

Piedmont states that due to a heavier than normal workload, it has not made the expected progress toward completion of the IRP. Further, Piedmont has hired an outside consultant which has not completed its analysis. Because of these circumstances, Piedmont requests that it be granted until July 1, 1997 to file its IRP.
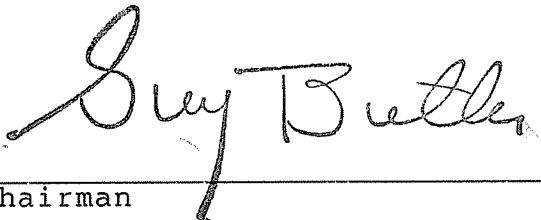
The Commission has examined this matter and believes that Piedmont has stated good cause for the extension as requested. The Commission therefore grants same.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

1.   Piedmont Natural Gas Company, Inc. shall be given an extension of time until July 1, 1997 to file its IRP.

2.   This Order shall remain in full force and effect until further Order of the Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

_____
Chairman

ATTEST:

_____
Deputy Executive Director

(SEAL)